

NEMBC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Connected Communities, Sustainable Futures

Friday 22 May – Saturday 23 May

Brisbane

The NEMBC Conference 2026 is a gathering for multicultural broadcasters to connect, reflect, and plan for the future of community media. Across two days, participants will explore how to strengthen trust and belonging within diverse communities, create more inclusive and engaging programming, and build the skills and strategies needed for sustainability and audience growth. The conference fosters collaboration, learning, and inspiration, leaving broadcasters equipped with practical ideas, sector insights, and new connections to enhance their work and impact in multicultural media.

FRIDAY 22 MAY		
Community Connection Day		
Designed for members seeking deeper engagement, peer exchange and identity-focused discussions		
10:00am onwards	Registration opens	
	Radio 4EB Open House If arriving early, join a guided tour of 4EB and connect with local broadcasters.	
10:30am-11:00am	Morning Tea	
11:00am-12:30pm <i>(informal networking session for those who are arriving early)</i>	Women's Networking Session Learn about gender equity on air and explore practical ways to make programming more inclusive. HerCapital Stories	<i>Jayanti Gupta, 2XX FM</i> <i>Joyce Yang, 1CMS</i>
	Youth Voices & Emerging Broadcasters Explore how to engage young audiences and support emerging broadcasters. Open to all participants interested in including youth perspectives in their programming.	<i>Chad Phillips, NEMBC</i>
	First Nations Broadcasting & Collaboration Gain insights into First Nations broadcasting, learn about collaboration opportunities, and how to include Indigenous perspectives in your shows.	<i>National Indigenous Radio Service</i>
12:30pm-1:15pm	Lunch	Networking lunch

1:15pm-2:00pm	Building Trust and Belonging Through Ethnic and Community Media Understand how media can build trust and a sense of belonging for diverse communities, with practical strategies for broadcasters.	<i>Anthea Hancocks – Scanlon Foundation</i>
2:00pm-3:30pm	All About Grants Learn how to find and apply for funding to support your station or programs.	<i>CBF</i>
	All About Sponsorship Practical tips for attracting sponsors and funding to grow your station and programs.	<i>Spots & Spaces</i>
	All About Technology Explore tools and technologies that can improve your broadcasts and help you reach more listeners.	<i>Technorama</i>
3:30pm-4:00pm	Afternoon Tea	
4:00-5:30pm	NEMBC Annual General Meeting Election of Directors	<i>NEMBC President & General Manager</i>
7:00pm-late	Evening event hosted by 4EB Social event to connect with other broadcasters.	
SATURDAY 23 MAY Official Conference Day – Strategy, Sustainability & Sector Future		
9:00am-9:30am	Formal Opening Plenary Welcome and overview, reflecting on Friday’s conversations, introduce new Board and President, introduce Saturday’s focus on the future of the sector.	<i>President / GM</i>
9:30am-10:15am	Community Broadcasting Research Project (Topic TBC) Learn about the latest research on community broadcasting, including insights on audience engagement and trust in multicultural media.	<i>Bridget Backhaus – Griffith University</i>
10:15am-10:35am	Morning Tea	
10:35am-11:30am	From Airwaves to Always-On Explore how stations can expand beyond traditional radio to online platforms and always-on digital content.	<i>Himanshu – Former 1CMS broadcaster</i>
11:30am-12:15pm	Connecting Radio & Television Practical tips for cross-platform collaboration to reach wider audiences.	<i>Shane Dunlop – CTV+</i>

12:15pm-1:00pm	Lunch	Networking session
1:00pm-1:45pm	Growing your Audience Learn strategies to attract and engage listeners and grow the reach of your programs.	Deborah Anderson - SBS
1:45pm-2:30pm	Ethnolink – Topic TBC	Costa Vasili - Ethnolink
2:30pm-3:15pm	Ethical Use of AI	ABC
3:15pm-3:35pm	Afternoon Tea	
3:35pm-4:15pm	Empowered Broadcasters, Stronger Communities Learn how strengthening broadcaster skills and confidence leads to more impactful community programming.	Cora Fuentes-Mahnic – Phoenix FM
4:15pm-4:30pm	Conference closing Reflect on key insights, share takeaways, and look ahead to next steps for the sector.	GM / President
7:00pm-late	Gala Dinner & Awards Night An evening of celebration, networking, and recognition of outstanding contributions to ethnic and multicultural broadcasting.	